

FMC Travel Club

A subsidiary of Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand (Inc.)

www.fmc.org.nz

Club Convenor : John Dobbs

Travel Smart Napier

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*** Italian Dolomites ***

9th to 18th July 2012, 10 days. \$2195 ex Bressanone, Italy

*** Austrian Stubai ***

18th to 28th July 2012, 11 days. \$2395 ex Neustift, Austria

*** Swiss Alps ***

28th July to 11th August 2012, 15 days. \$3295 ex Lucerne, Switzerland

All trips led by Marianne and Urs Reinhard

(the combined trip is 9th July to 11th August, 34 days)

SAVE! Register for all 3 together before 31st October 2011 to save \$300 off the final total price!

Our itineraries are excellent 'stand alone' or as part of a wider European based holiday

The Dolomites and Stubai are different, yet complementary. The Swiss Alps are a classic.

Together, they give a wonderful experience of the finest European tramping while absorbing the culture of each area.

PRICE INCLUDES : All accommodations, all transports, most meals, the services of experienced and knowledgeable Kiwi leaders

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE : Flights to/from the region, travel insurance (mandatory), some meals (mostly lunches) personal incidentals e.g. internet

Trip Leaders :

Marianne Reinhard was born and educated in Switzerland and is fluent in German, French and Italian, and of course English. She is widely travelled and has also worked in other countries. In the early 1970's she and Urs emigrated to New Zealand and became involved with tramping here. Joining the ASC. She regularly returns to Switzerland and I can think of no more a qualified person to lead our programmes here. This will be the 7th that Marianne has led for the Travel Club and her trips always fill rapidly. In 2009 we introduced the Dolomites of northern Italy and received great feedback. In 2010, the Mont Blanc Circuit was introduced for the first time. For 2012, another 'new' region is introduced – Austria's Stubai. In recent years, Urs has joined Marianne in trip leading and they work superbly together.

They are highly reliable and organized and with warm personalities. Marianne, Urs and I heartily welcome you aboard! Any questions concerning the itinerary are welcome to : marianne.reinhard@xtra.co.nz

Trip Organisation :

Overview. *This is a classic tramping trip to some of the very best mountain regions that Europe offers. Tramping here has a wonderful heritage providing an excellent range of tramps, tracks, accommodation and transport links. Huts become youth hostels, rifugios and small family run hotels, and dehy' is never on the menu! We believe it will have broad appeal for anyone considering Europe in 2012, or who wants a taste of something different to the NZ experience.*

Transport *between regions is by the efficient train and bus system, with frequent use of cablecars and gondolas. Walking becomes the means of getting through the programme apart from this.*

Accommodations *have been carefully chosen for best advantage. This may be near train stations for convenience or in unique and stunning alpine settings. A local 'flavour' in style and architecture features, while we are conscious of cost throughout. A combination of hostels, smaller hotels and rifugios are used, with comfort and convenience being the norm. Where possible, we secure twin rooms, but sometimes dorm style applies. Bookings for accommodations are made well in advance as we travel in the busy summer months. A full list of accommodations features in a pre-departure newsletter.*

Meals. *Most dinners and breakfasts are included and many of our accommodations provide half board. This means dinner that night and breakfast the next morning are included, on site. Eating and drinking in restaurants is quite expensive. Buy your lunches from the numerous options enroute.*

Flights and links. *Zurich is the ideal arrival city for those flying into Switzerland. Singapore Airlines have excellent direct connections to Zurich from Singapore and are our recommended airline. Northern summer special airfares are released in October/November, so trip planning is best thought through now to take advantage of these specials. This provides ultimate flexibility to link flights in with private travel plans, or form part of extended travel in Europe. John at Travel Smart Napier is ready to secure the flights and arrangements to suit you.*

Further information. *At least one newsletter containing lots of information will be produced later on. Included will be the logistics of transport, list of accommodations, gear list, party list, and more. At any stage feel free to contact Marianne with any questions about the trip itinerary and overall aspects. Contact John to discuss registration details and the flight deals that would work for this trip, travel insurance etc.*

Programme and Itinerary for the Italian Dolomites :

The bizarre vertical shapes, steeples and pinnacles standing out among the green forests and meadows give the Dolomites a special atmosphere. These peaks and passes have attracted climbers and walkers for a long time. A large network of tracks and climbing routes (vie ferrate) crisscross this 80 kms long strip. Historic sites dating from WW1 – tunnels, galleries, ruins of military bases etc. are liberally sprinkled.

We tramp close to the front line where bloody battles were fought between the Austrians and Italians for control of these strategic mountains. The languages spoken are Italian, German and Ladin. The 'Ladin' originating from the Latin introduced by the Romans when the region was absorbed by the Roman Empire. All this makes for interesting reading of maps and timetables. The different cultures also offer a superb palette of culinary delights. Please note it is necessary to carry your full pack for the full Dolomites section.

Day 1. Mon 9th July

The group assembles in Bressanone (Brixen) Italy. Today you may have travelled by train from Zurich. Overnight at the Youth Hostel, Bressanone. **D.**

Day 2. Tue 10th July

By bus to Ortisei and cablecar to Alpe di Siusi (Seiser Alm). At 1800m to 2300m the Seiser Alm is the highest plateau (alm) in Europe. Its gentle slopes make it an all season family favourite. Walking starts on an easy track at Compatsch and descends to Saltria. Then a final climb to our accommodation. Expansive views all round with Sassolungo and Sassopiatto the most prominent. Good chance we will also see marmots. Walk 5 – 6 hrs, 100m down and 600m up. Overnight at Rifugio Sasso Piatto at 2300m. **B.D.**

Day 3. Wed 11th July

We take the popular Fred. August Weg sidling along the Sassopiatto to the Forcella Rodella. Descend to the Canazei (1468m) and take the cablecar to Col. di Rosc. (2348m) then only 45 mins to our accommodation. Superb views again, this time the Gruppo Sella and Marmolada taking prominence. Walk 5 – 6 hrs, 850m down and 200m up. Overnight at Rifugio Viel del Pan. **B.D.**

Day 4. Thu 12th July

Continue on track 601 towards Porta Viscova. Across the valley superb views of Marmolada and its reflections in Lake Fedaiia. At Rif. Passo Padon (2369m) we take the long descent on track 634 towards Pieve do Livinallongo (1465m) and up to our accommodation. Walk 6 – 7 hrs, up 200m and down approx' 1000m. Overnight at Albergo Cesa Padon, Pieve, the gastronomic highlight of this tour! **B.D.**

Day 5. Fri 13th July

Take the bus to the Castello Andraz. We have a look at the ruins of the 11th century castle, then cross the road and head up track 441 towards Mt Averau. Walk 4 – 5 hrs climbing approx' 1000m. Overnight at the newly redecorated Rifugio Averau (2416m). **B.D.**

Day 6. Sat 14th July

From Rifugio Averau, we enjoy superb views. We walk through the well maintained and preserved WW1 open air museum of Torre Grande and Cinque Torri. The views right across the Tofane are fantastic. A gentle walk down to Rif. Bai de Dones and then by bus to Cortina. After lunch, by bus to Misurina. Walk 2 hrs, descend approx' 800m. Overnight at Albergo Miralago, Misurina. **B.D.**

Day 7. Sun 15th July

By bus to Rif. Auronzo (2320m) and a short walk to our accommodation. While walking on a wide and popular track on your right enjoy the sweeping views of the Crode de Torri, lake of Auronzo, lake Misurina and the Cristallo group. While on your left, keeping an eye on the climbers up the tre Cime de Lavaredo. We now have the choice of a day walk in the famous Tre Cime area, where there are options of varying lengths. Overnight at Rifugio Lavaredo (2344m). **B.D.**

Day 8. Mon 16th July

From the rifugio we climb 150m to the Forcella di Lavaredo (2454m). From the saddle, the views of the majestic Tre Cime and the great circle of the Dolomiti de Sesto and Auronzo hits you right between the eyes! Continue on a wide track (lower option) to Rif. Locatelli (2405m). On track 105 we are now entering the Sextener National Park. Overnight at Rif. Tre Scarperi (1620m). **B. D.**

Day 9. Tue 17th July

An easy day starting downhill while being watched over on the left by Haunold (2937m) and Haunoldkopfl (2158m) to the Haunold Hut (1500m). And down all the way to Dobbiaco (1241m) in the Pustertal. Train to Bressanone (Brixen). Overnight at the Bressanone Youth Hostel again. **B.D.**

Day 10. Wed 18th July

The Dolomites section ends after breakfast.

If you are continuing on to the Austrian Stubaier, you will travel by train to Innsbruck and bus to Neustift. **B.**

Programme and Itinerary for the Austrian Stubaier :

The Stubaier Hoehenweg (Stubai High Path) rates as one of the most beautiful high alpine tracks in the Austrian Alps. It is a 120 kms circuit and varying altitudes of 2200m and 2700m that connects 8 well established, comfortable huts all above 2000m. 8670m altitude in 8 days. Although there are no glaciers to cross, there could still be patches of snow. There are some steep, rocky sections, some secured with steel rope or ladders. A head for heights is required and of course, good fitness. This is a high alpine track suitable for experienced trampers only. An 8 day tramp with a full pack.

Another option would be to stay in Neustift and do day trips to most of the huts. This would involve some extra costs for bus and other transport.

Day 1. Wed 18th July

Whether approaching from the end of the Dolomites programme, or arriving from overseas, take the train to Innsbruck in Austria. Then a short bus ride to Neustift at 1000m. We all meet up at Hotel Angelika. **B.**

Day 2. Thu 19th July

Take the Elfer cablecar to 1800m and start walking on the Panorama track to Pinnisalm, then on and up to our accommodation. The scenery is reminiscent of the Dolomites. The towering spires of the Serleskamm and Tribulaun cannot fail to impress. Overnight at Innsbrucker Hut (2369m). **B.D.**

Day 3. Fri 20th July

An early start today, climbing over a col and up to 2590m. A demanding and long day with several steep and aided sections. The Bremer Hut, our stop tonight is soon visible in the distance. After another steep descent and we reach the idyllic Lauternsee. The Bremer Hut (2413m) is in a delightful setting beside a tarn with the Stubai high peaks as a backdrop. **B.D.**

Day 4. Sat 21st July

A shorter day today. We climb to the Simmingjochl (2754m) for a fine view over the Austrian-Italian border ridge to the south. After an aided descent we cross a gully (may well have some snow, still), a further descent and cross the Langtal stream and then a final climb up to our accommodation, the Nuernberger Hut (2280m). The hut was built in the 19th century and with some amazing features, such as a fountain in the dining room! It sleeps around 150. **B.D.**

Day 5. Sun 22nd July

A gradual climb then getting steeper through rock slabs to the Nierderl Pass (2627m). Then descending steeply to a tarn. Fine views of the Wilder Freiger and an easy track to the Sulzenau Hut (2191m). Wide views from the Sulzenau alm below and the valley beyond. **B.D.**

Day 6. Mon 23rd July

Follow a stream, continue past rock faces popular with climbing schools, then zig-zag up the steep moraine of the Sulzenau glacier and on to the Peiljoch (2676m). Superb views of the Zuckerhuetl (3507m), the highest peak in the Stubaier Alps. From here the Dresdner Hut and the cablecar station are visible. We descend to the hut (built in 1870 and

extended several times). A busy place with day trippers taking the cable car to the Top of Europe! Overnight Dresdner Hut (2302m). **B.D.**

Day 7. Tue 24th July

An early start as we have a 7 – 8 hr day. Many ups and downs, with some aided sections. Over a series of high cols, the first and second col approx' 2750m, the third 2881m. But we also walk through beautiful alpine meadows past tarns and a small lake. Overnight at the Neue Regensburger Hut (2286m). **B.D.**

Day 8. Wed 25th July

One of the easier and shorter sections. On a clear day we should consider the short detour climb to the Basslerjoch (up approx' 20 mins) to enjoy one of the best views of the Stubaier High Route. Overnight at Franz Senn Hutt (2149m). **B.D.**

Day 9. Thu 26th July

The final stage is another long day. The track undulates and sometimes rugged, then climbs to the Sendersjoech (2477m) with almost final views of the Stubaier high peaks. On to the Steinkogel (2589m), the Seejoechl and the final descent to the Starkenburger Hut (2237m). **B.D.**

Day 10. Fri 27th July

Descend to Neustift and enjoy once more the warm hospitality and fine cuisine of Karin and Florian at the Hotel Angelika. **B.D.**

Day 11. Sat 28th July

After breakfast, the end of this section. If you are continuing on to the Swiss Alps, you will travel by train to Innsbruck, Zurich and on to Lucerne today. **B.**

Programme and Itinerary for the Swiss Alps :

Lucerne is a wonderfully picturesque city in the historic and scenic heart of the country. From here we orient to all things Swiss before embarking on our tramping programme. The Swiss Alps are incredibly scenic and interesting. Follow all trodden paths, the walking is straightforward although altitude change provides a good workout, and we have shown altitudes to give an idea. We stay in stunning settings in the mountains and villages where the standards are very good. This really is classic European tramping at its best. There are several places we stay for multi nights where there are various options to really extend yourself, or to take it a bit easier. In between, you carry your main pack to each overnight stop.

Day 1. Sat 28th July

Everyone will make their way to the accommodation at Lucerne, perhaps by a short train journey from Zurich Airport, or the longer train journey from Innsbruck. Lucerne is ideally located in the historic and scenic heart of the country. We start to familiarize with Swiss culture and the details of the trip. We spend the next two nights at the Tourist Hotel on the River Reuss in the old town of Lucerne. **B.**

Day 2. Sun 29th July

Local exploration of the old city with its 15th century buildings, frescoes and covered bridges. Maybe a thrilling excursion by cog railway or cablecar to the top of Mt. Pilatus. **B.**

Day 3. Mon 30th July

Our tramping programme begins. Take the train to Engelberg, then cablecars all the way up to Jochpass (2207m). Descend through flowering alpine meadows to the pretty Engstlensee (1850m), then up to Tannalp. Overnight in dorms at Berggasthaus Tannalp. **B.D.**

Day 4. Tue 31st July

From Tannalp we take the track to the ridge and follow it to the Balmegger Horn (2255m) and Planplatten (2233m) and descend to Maegisalp (1708m). The relentless descent to Reuti (1061m) and to Meiringen (602m) can be done by cablecar. Breathtaking panoramas and beautiful alpine flora. Walk approx' 5 – 6 hrs, ascending 400m and descending 1600m. overnight at Familienhotel Tourist, Meiringen. **B.D.**

Day 5. Wed 1st Aug

From the hotel we amble over to the Reichenbachfalls (1454m) (the site where the famous detective Sherlock Holmes fell to his death). Then we tramp the classic trek up the Rosenlui valley from Schwarzwaldalp (1454m) over Oberlaeger (1950m) to the Grosse Scheidegg (1961m) at the awesome rockface of the Wetterhorn (3692m). Approx' 4 hrs ascending 500m. Overnight in dorms at Berghotel Grosse Scheidegg.

Day 6. Thu 2nd Aug

A panoramic tramp as we descend to Grindelwald (1034m), a busy resort at the foot of the Eiger north face. Approx' 4 – 5 hrs descending 900m. Surrounded by a dramatic panorama of glaciers – the Wetterhorn, Schreckhorn and the Eiger north face. We spend the next 3 nights at the Youth Hostel in Grindelwald. **B.D.**

Day 7. Fri 3rd Aug and Day 8. Sat 4th Aug

There are many choices for short and long walks from Grindelwald, or perhaps you would like a rest day here. A must is the excursion by train to the Jungfrauoch (3454m) or 'roof of Europe'. Here you can see the ice palace, sphinx hall, walk to the glacier and plateau. Another classic tramp would be to the Faulhorn (2681m), approx' 6.5 hrs. A combination of cablecar and track walking. **B.D.**

Day 9. Sun 5th Aug

From the Kleine Scheidegg (2061m) walk via Wengernalp (1873m) to Wengen (1275m). Descending 600m, see the impressive Staubbach Falls. Train down to Lauterbrunnen and up the other side (Muerren) by cablecar to Sonnenberg (1835m). If time and weather allows consider taking the cable car to the Schilthorn (2970m). Over night at Pension Sonnenberg. **B.D.**

Day 10. Mon 6th Aug

By train to Zermatt. This delightful car-free alpine town is at 1620m in view of the mighty Matterhorn (4478m). We stay for 3 nights at the modern Zermatt Youth Hostel. **B.D.**

Day 11. Tue 7th Aug and Day 12. Wed 8th Aug

Plenty of options. Combine cablecar and walking e.g. to the GornerGrat (3130m), the Rothorn (3130m) or the Small Matterhorn (3883m). Or other options where we may be lucky enough to see chamois and marmots. **B.D.**

Day 13. Thu 9th Aug

From Zermatt by train down to the Rhone Valley and up the other side to Bettmeralp (1950m). Bettmeralp is situated on a terrace high above the Rhone Valley, flanked by the Rieder and Fiescheralp, all facing south. Beyond the ridgeline flows the Grosser Aletsch glacier. Here we stay for 2 nights at Kik's Lodge. **Self catering.**

Day 14. Fri 10th Aug

A must is the day trip through the Aletsch Forest above the Aletsch Glavier. This track is known as one of the most panoramic tracks of Switzerland, running parallel to the glacier and offering constant views of the glacier. Superb views also from the nearby Hohfluh (2227m) and Moosfluh (2335m).

The other must is by cablecar to the Bettmerhorn then sidle along the boulder side all the way down to the glacier, then on to the Marljensee and back via Fiescheralp to Kik's Lodge. **Self catering.**

Day 15. Sat 11th Aug

The trip ends after breakfast when we depart Zermatt by train. Maybe a last night in Bern or Zurich before you depart Switzerland? **B.**

Booking Conditions : FMC Travel Club and Travel Smart Napier

1. *The FMC Travel Club (FMC) offers this small group trip in conjunction with Travel Smart Napier (TSN). All travel arrangements are made with TSN. Participants agree to all terms and conditions by signing the Registration Form.*
2. *FMC and TSN are not responsible or liable for any injury, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may arise from weather, defect in any vehicle, vessel or aircraft, or through the acts or default of any person or company engaged in carrying out any of the arrangements of the trip.*
3. *We reserve the right to cancel each trip if numbers don't eventuate. In such as event, all monies paid will be fully refunded. We also reserve the right to make any modifications that may be essential, or to offer a modified trip to a smaller number of people.*
4. *The trip pricing includes a payment to FMC and apportioned cost of the trip leaders travel.*
5. *Registrations are accepted in good faith on a first comers basis on receipt of the Registration Form. **The per person deposit is \$500 for each trip. Register for all 3 trips at the one time before 31st October 2011 and save \$300 off the final trip price.** Ideally trip registrations close by 31st December 2011, or sooner if we receive enough registrations sooner; and the final payment will be due by 30th April 2012. All payments may be paid by cash, cheque, EFTPOS, internet banking, visa or mastercard to the office of TSN. Internet banking is preferred, please use : 010685 0151601 00 at ANZ Napier. Heerlen Ltd T/A Travel Smart Napier. **All or any payments by visa or mastercard will increase each trip price by \$50, so please avoid this payment method if possible.** Cheques must be payable to Travel Smart Napier.*
6. *Trip arrangements are made in Euros and Swiss Francs, so are subject to currency fluctuation. Events beyond our control such as currency fluctuation or the imposition of new taxes for example, may result in a variation to the trip price until such times as full payment has been received. Upon full payment, the trip price is guaranteed.*
7. *Cancellations and travel insurance.*

If you need to withdraw your registration for any reason, before or after deposits have been paid, you must advise TSN as soon as possible. Any phone calls must be followed up in writing (an email is acceptable). Cancellation fees apply as follows :

 - *Cancellations received from 1st January 2012 until 30th April 2012 will forfeit the deposit payment of \$500 on each trip cancelled.*
 - *Cancellations received from 1st May 2012 onwards incur a fee of 100% of each trip cost.*
 - *If you are able to provide a suitable replacement person, we MAY be able to waive these fees.*

Travel Insurance is essential for the full duration of your time from NZ. It will cover for unforeseen circumstances if taken out prior to travel dates, but will not cover you for changing your mind after committing. Please ensure your policy covers all aspects of your trip and includes repatriation back to NZ. We recommend QBE Travel Insurance and can provide a discounted premium. Policy wording and application form can be emailed or posted at any time. Do not overlook travel insurance.
8. *Please provide a photocopy or scan of your passport when sending in your registration.*

Registration Form for Italian Dolomites, Austrian Stubaier and Swiss Alps 2012 :

Complete and send to John Dobbs with a passport copy. We require 7 participants on each trip to be viable and maximum numbers also apply. Please register early so we can establish group viability soonest, and be fair to others. Late registrations may miss out. The per person deposit is \$500 per trip. You can save \$300 by registering for all 3 trips together before 31st October 2011.

I / We want to register for : Dolomites Stubaier Alps (circle all applicable)

Names as they appear in your passport/s and circle preferred first name/s.....

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Mailing address.....

Home phone..... Work phone..... Mobile.....

Email..... Date/s of birth.....

Tramping or other type club affiliation to FMC (if any).....
(Alpine Club members should bring their membership cards on these trips)

Dietary requirements, allergies, medical conditions we should be aware of?.....

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Contact person in NZ for emergencies : name, relationship to you, address, phone numbers, email. In the event of any emergency, this is the sole person you are permitting us to liaise with

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Please continue over and answer further questions about your tramping experience, thank you

I / We have read the full trip dossier and I / We enclose the per person deposit of \$500 for each trip selected. I / We agree to pay the remainder of trip costs by due date, as advised by invoice. I / We understand that the final trip price is subject to securing a minimum number of participants to proceed, and to currency fluctuations; therefore the final trip price cannot be guaranteed until such time as full payment has been made.

.....signed and dated by each person registering

Send to : John Dobbs, FMC Travel Club Convenor

Travel Smart Napier.

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